

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 4, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 5 being the only independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of the above-identified application as herein amended, and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed August 4, 2003, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over EP 0 597 638 (Beddoes).

Claims 3-4, 7-8, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Beddoes and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,295,180 (Vendetti).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a method and system for changing a subscriber profile based on the identity of a base station serving the subscriber terminal. As is known in the prior art, base stations transmit information signals such as, for example, CGI (cell global identity) information in the BCCH (Broadcast Control Channel) in a mobile communication network which include a cell identifier of the cell (see page 2, line 21 - page 3, line 3). As is also known in the art, the cell identifier (CI) is a 16-bit identifier used in conjunction with a location area identifier to uniquely identify a base station (see attached definitions of CGI and CI). However, network reconfigurations commonly require changes in cell identifiers (see page 3, lines 2-3). If the cell identifier of the home cell of a mobile terminal changes due to a network reconfiguration, the mobile network will not recognize the new cell identifier. The present invention overcomes this problem by assigning a permanent base station identity designation that is in addition to a cell identifier and that does not change in conjunction

with network reconfigurations (page 5, lines 6-7 and page 8, lines 7-9). This allows a mobile terminal to identify or recognize a particular base station in whose area the mobile terminal is currently located on the basis of the permanent identity designation.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have each been amended to recite that an information signal including a permanent base station identifier is transmitted from a base station to a terminal equipment, wherein "the permanent base station identity designation is separate from a cell identity of a global cell identifier of the base station". This added limitation was previously presented in dependent claims 4 and 8. Accordingly, the amendment does not require further search and/or consideration and therefore should be entered.

Beddoes discloses a cellular communication system in which each base station emits an identifying signal on a control channel (see col. 1, lines 47-48). However, Beddoes fails to disclose, teach or suggest that the identifying signal of the BTS is separate from a cell ID of a global cell ID of the BTS.

Vendetti fails to teach or suggest what Beddoes lacks. Vendetti discloses a cellular telephone communication system in which zones Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, \dots , are defined within a cellular system 50. The zones may comprise subsections of a single cell 52 of the cellular system as shown in Fig. 2. In any event, the zones are separate areas from the cells in Vendetti. To determine whether a user is within a zone, each zone has a marker transmitter M_1, M_2, \dots , which transmits a marker signal identifying the zone. The marker transmitters are separate from the cell transceivers 54 in each cell 52. That is, Vendetti discloses that the zone identification and the cell identification are transmitted by two separate transmitters. Even if the zone signal is considered to be a permanent identity that is separate from the cell identifier of the global cell identifier of a base station, there is no teaching or suggestion that the BTS of Vendetti transmits the permanent signal, as expressly

recited in independent claims 1 and 5. Rather, the zone identifier is transmitted by a separate transmitter and identifies a separate area from the cell area of the BTS. Accordingly, the combined teachings of Beddoes and Vendetti fail to teach or suggest that the BTS transmits a permanent base station identity designation that is separate from the cell identity of a global cell identifier, as recited in independent claims 1 and 5. Instead, the zone identifier i.e., permanent identifier, separate from the cell identifier is transmitted by a transmitter that is separate from the base station, i.e., BTS. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 5 are allowable over Beddoes in view of Vendetti.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 5, are allowable for at least the same reasons as are independent claims 1 and 5.


The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By


Alfred W. Froebrich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

Dated: October 3, 2003